UAV crash near Bhatinda, Punjab

3902. SHRIDHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) used as spy plane crashed near Bhatinda in Punjab in March, 2008;

if so, the details thereof;

whether Government has enquired into the incident; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There was no Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) crash near Bhatinda in Punjab in March, 2008. However, there was a crash of UAV at Awantipur airfield in March, 2008. All such incidents are investigated by a Court of Inquiry and remedial action taken thereon.

Separate Pay Commission for Armed Forces

3903. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Chiefs of Staff Committee have submitted Memorandum for a separate pay commission for armed forces;

if so, the details thereof; and

what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Chiefs of Staff Committee have not submitted a Memorandum for a separate Pay Commission for the Armed Forces.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Timely construction of strategic roads in border areas

†f3904. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

the number of roads running behind their time frame out of 171 roads of strategic importance being constructed in border areas;

the reasons for non-allotment of sufficient budget for the roads of strategic importance; and

the efforts undertaken to ensure completion of all roads within the schedule time and the outcome thereof so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Only 15 (Fifteen) roads are running behind schedule out of 171 roads of strategic importance being constructed in border areas.

(b) There is adequate budget allocation for the construction of roads of strategic importance as per the organizational capacity and time-frame.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) Steps have been taken for induction of additional manpower, Machinery, and equipment in order to ensure timely completion. Regular liaison is also being maintained with the State Governments to obtain forest/environment clearances.

Budgetary allocations for modernization of Indian Navy

3905. SHRI VIJYA J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

what were budgetary allocations relating to modernization plans of Indian Navy during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

did the envisaged modernization plan fructify and the funds fully utilized; and

does the Navy have technologically developed and fully equipped combat and rescue vessels in the fast changing global scenario to adequately take care of our vast coasts during war-like contingencies; and also supplementing vigilance for our off-shore installations, etc. both in peace and hostile conditions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The details of allocation and utilisation of modernisation budget of Indian Navy during 2004-05 and 2005-06 were as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure
2004-2005	7630.44	7852.76	8086.68
2005-2006	892423	8241.79	7578.98

The funds made available were fully utilised in 2004-05. About 92% utilisation was achieved against the Revised Estimate of the Budget during 2005-06. The Indian Navy has an aircraft carrier and a mix of destroyers, frigates, corvettes, offshore patrol vessels, other minor vessels, aircraft and submarines to deal with various contingencies.

Acquisition of aire rafts for VIPs

3906. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether 3 VIP Boeing business aircraft have been ordered at a cost of Rs. 936.93 crore;

whether the newly ordered VIP aicraft will not be used for international travel, ncessitating continued use of Air India aircraft; and

if so, the reasons therefor keeping in view the cost-benefit factor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Government has signed a contract with M/s Boeing for purchase of three Boeing Business Jets (BBJ) along with Self Protection Suite (SPS) at a cost of Rs. 961 crore.